

ABSTRACT

WA-II-220

Late 18th Century

Newcomer-Graff Farm

Boonsboro Vicinity

private

This late 18th - early 19th century stone house and its related buildings was part of a grist milling complex established by Peter Newcomer during the closing years of the 18th century. Peter Newcomer came to Washington County from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, with his father and two brothers sometime before 1789 when he acquired land near Little Beaver Creek. He was a member of a prominent family who operated several mills on the Beaver, Little Beaver and Antietam Creeks. This house was presumably built by Peter Newcomer and like many of its contemporaries utilizes the native limestone as its construction material. It displays some unusually fine federal style interior woodwork.

According to tradition the front part of the dwelling is predated by the ell.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-II-220  
District 6  
Map 63  
Parcel 16  
2203635364

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Newcomer-Graff Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Benevola Church Road, East of Route 40-A.

CITY, TOWN

Benevola

☒ VICINITY OF Boonsboro

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Vincent J. Graff

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Route # 1

CITY, TOWN

Boonsboro

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21713

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: 251

Folio #: 402

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

WA-II-220

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED < 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

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This farmhouse is located east of Route 40-A south of Benevola Church Road just east of Benevola in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on a high bluff above Benevola Church Road and Little Beaver Creek. It faces north. At the bottom of the hill at the edge of the creek is the site of a grist mill which was associated with this property.

The dwelling is a two story, three bay structure built of coursed native limestone. A two story, two bay ell or wing extends to the rear and a frame garage is attached to the east gable wall. Flat arches of stucco or rough cast incised to look like uniform blocks are present above the openings.

Windows which are large in relation to wall area appear to be spaced evenly. Wide frames joined with pegs hold nine over six pane double hung sashes. The windows in the ell which have two over two pane sashes are set lower than those in the main section with several feet of masonry separating them from the roof plate. Most windows are flanked with pairs of louvered shutters.

The main entrance is located in the east bay of the front or north elevation. It is framed similarly to the windows and includes a transom. A one story portico supported by pillars following the doric form shelters the door.

The roof is covered with slates and extends beyond the end walls. The eaves are finished with boxing under which runs a course of molding with small dentil work. A brick chimney with corbels at its top is located inside the west gable end.

The entrance opens into a broad stair hall. West of the hall is a large room which was formerly divided into two. The federal style fireplace mantel is trimmed with reeding and pearl molding in an oval pattern. Interior doors have six raised panels.

Just east of the house is a square brick smoke house with a hipped roof which terminates with a turned wooden finial. To the northeast are the foundations of a moderately large bank barn.

The house appears to be in fair condition and stands on a 28.94 acre tract made up of parts of the land grants, "Wine Hall," "Resurvey on Patricks Lot" and "Pleasant Valley." The structure does show evidence of having been damaged in recent years by blasting from a nearby quarry.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This late 18th - early 19th century stone house and its related buildings was part of a grist milling complex established by Peter Newcomer during the closing years of the 18th century. Peter Newcomer came to Washington County from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, with his father and two brothers sometime before 1789 when he acquired land near Little Beaver Creek. He was a member of a prominent family who operated several mills on the Beaver, Little Beaver and Antietam Creeks. This house was presumably built by Peter Newcomer and like many of its contemporaries utilizes the native limestone as its construction material. It displays some unusually fine federal style interior woodwork. According to tradition the front part of the dwelling is predated by the ell.

The Washington County Land Records show that Peter Newcomer, in various transactions between 17 and 1800, acquired parts of the land grants, "Wine Hall," "The Resurvey on Patricks Lot" and "Pleasant Valley." The property was in the Newcomer family except for a brief period following the death of Peter Newcomer until 1887 when it was sold by Joseph Newcomer and his wife Sarah to Joseph Eavey (90/117, 87/402, SS/580, II/654, 481, AA/52). In the Chancery Court Records concerning the estate of Jonathan Newcomer, Peter's son, in 1863, the improvements on the 80 acre property included a large three story mill, dwelling house and out-buildings. (Chancery Record 8/210).

After 1887 the mill property changed hands numerous times until it was purchased by the present owners in 1949. (98/333, 115/170, 120/672, 154/630, 159/295, 187/95, 226/208).

It is not known from present research when the mill ceased operation.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Washington County Land Records.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 28.94 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Washington County Historical Sites Survey

DATE

October 1976

STREET &amp; NUMBER

County Office Building, 33 West Washington Street

TELEPHONE

791-3065

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

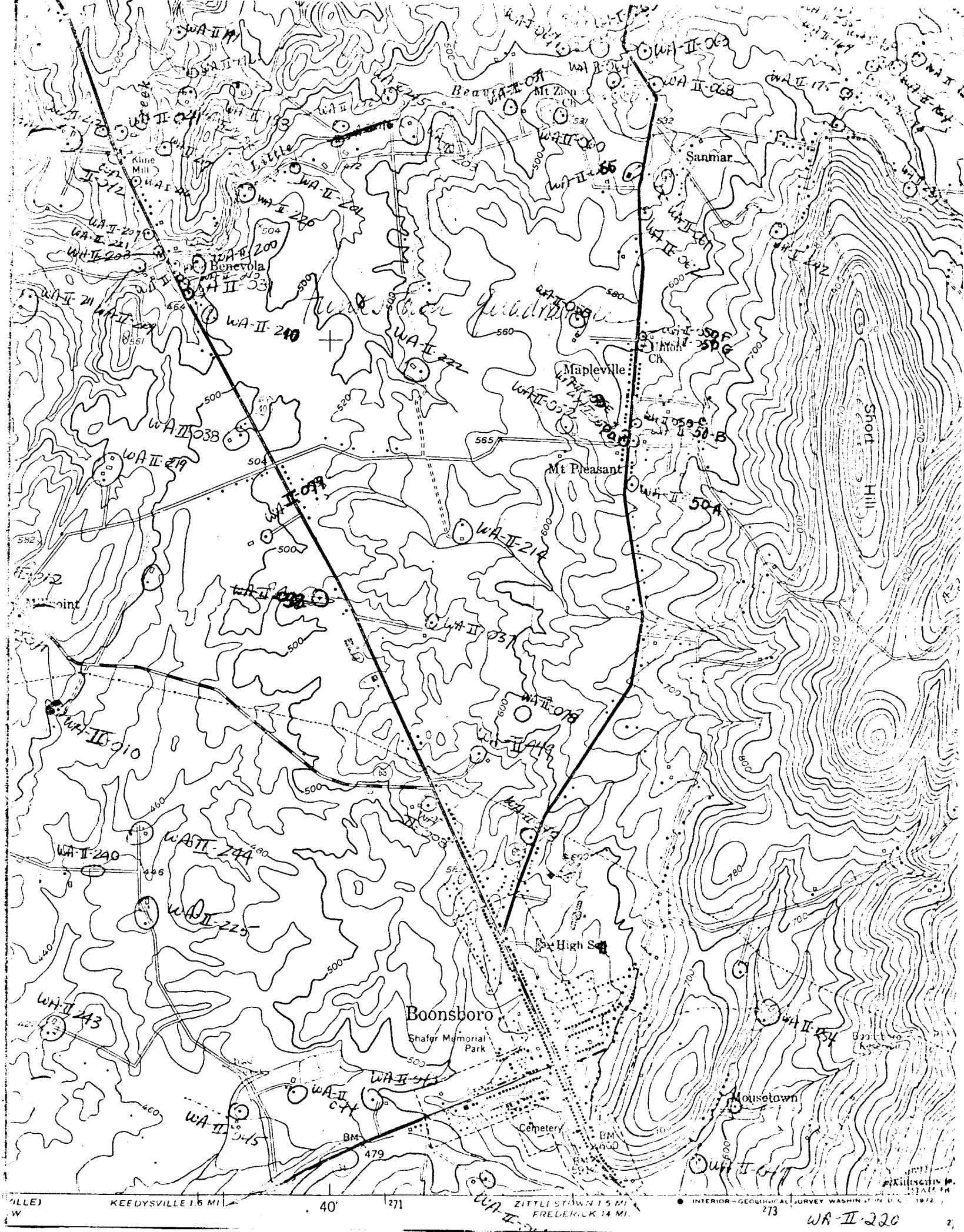
STATE

Maryland 21740

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438





WA-T-310

12.6

Nov. 1965

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY





W.H. # 2700

Smoke house N.E.

Nov. 1961

PAULA STOVER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WH-220

Rich Site Abu Sam

1 Oct. 1975

PAULA STONER DICKY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON DC  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



64-9-250

Mill site N.E. Corner

Nov. 1915

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY